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Stokes, James Graham
Phelps

Hartley House and its
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New York

1897

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HARTLEY HOUSE:

AND ITS RELATIONS TO THE
SOCIAL REFORM MOVEMENT

By J. G. Phelps Stokes

413 West 46th Street
New York

1897

HARTLEY HOUSE :

AND ITS RELATIONS TO THE SOCIAL REFORM MOVEMENT

HARTLEY HOUSE

AND ITS RELATIONS TO THE SOCIAL REFORM MOVEMENT

Hartley House is a social and industrial settlement, in the heart of the Fifteenth Assembly District of New York. Its object is the broad one of doing all it can in various ways to improve the condition of the poor. Before proceeding to describe the methods of its work, I must say a few words as to how it happened to be started.

A couple of years ago, the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor established a small cooking school in that very wretched and densely populated portion of the city known as Cherry Hill, and tried down there to do something to improve the conditions of family life in the tenements, and at the same time to combat the evil influences of the saloon, by teaching the women of the poorer districts how to cook and prepare such meals as a tired man, returning from a hard day's work, can eat and enjoy. For it has of course been recognized for some time that the abominable cook-

ing in the tenement districts has been a widespread and potent cause of all sorts of family dissensions and rows, and of drunkenness, and all its attendant disorder. Thousands of laboring men returning to their homes tired and wearied from the labors of the day, find awaiting them, instead of a good and wholesome supper, food so abominably prepared that its nutritive qualities have been largely destroyed, and its normal savor entirely cooked away. When for instance a piece of steak has been broiled to the consistency of sole leather, or fried in grease until each particle of the meat is surrounded by an envelope of oil impenetrable to the gastric fluids, and when in addition its surface has been charred and thoroughly carbonized, it is no wonder that the workman of ordinary patience leaves his wife's table in despair to seek something palatable at the nearest saloon.

A few months ago a laboring man with whom I was conversing made the remark that one-half the domestic infelicity of the poor was due to the men's wives not knowing how to cook a decent meal. He didn't express it in just those words, but he did say "one half the bad wives that men has got is owin' to their not knowin' how to cook." Shortly afterwards

a friend of mine was visiting a poor woman over on the East Side at about half-past four in the afternoon. Noticing that the family supper was cooking on the stove and almost done, she asked the woman at what time her husband usually got home, and was told that he generally arrived at about six. Being naturally surprised at seeing the meal prepared so long in advance, the visitor made some remark about it; whereupon the woman most innocently replied, "Well, I didn't have much to do this afternoon, so you see I thought I might as well get supper ready early and let it keep"! When meals prepared in this way are made still more unattractive by dirty and untidy rooms, and perhaps a dirty and untidy family, and contrasted with the good food and congenial companions to be found at the nearest corner, it is no wonder that thousands of men resort to the saloons, and fall into drunkenness and its accompanying evils as a direct result.

The object of the Cherry Hill school then was the broad one of attempting to better the physical and moral condition of the people by so training the girls and young women that home and family life should become more attractive and more sufficient. Unfortunately, its usefulness was of short duration,

for owing to lack of financial support it had soon to be abandoned.

Last autumn, however, the Association realized more strongly than ever the immense importance of such work, and its very far reaching usefulness, and determined to start the school anew, on a larger and more comprehensive scale. It was determined to open in addition to the cooking classes, classes in general housekeeping, where the girls could be taught everything necessary to make and keep a home neat and tidy and attractive. Where poor girls could be taught, free of charge, how to get and prepare the most nutritious and tasteful meals at the least possible cost; where they could be taught something practical and at the same time scientific, about the relative nutritive values of various simple and common foods, and about the best and most wholesome and most savory methods of cooking them; and where they could be taught also how to arrange the table attractively, and how to pass the food; and how to clean the dishes, and the windows, and the walls, and to dust the furniture and make the beds and arrange the rooms; where they could be taught in general how to make home comfortable and attractive, not for their own good merely, but

for the good also of their husbands and friends and brothers. And by combining with such a school all the neighborly friendly features of a college settlement, it was hoped that the establishment could be so developed as to form a useful and helpful center in some large and needy district, and that it would gain such an influence over the people round about that its usefulness would be permanent and far reaching.

With this object in view and this purpose, the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor established Hartley House at 413 West 46th Street on the 1st of January, this year. It was decided to place it there, in the heart of the Fifteenth Assembly District for many reasons. In the first place, the Fifteenth Assembly District was shown by a recent house to house canvass made by the Federation of Churches and Christian workers, to be one of the most needy in the city. It is extremely densely populated, containing over 40,000 people in it twenty-three blocks. It is interesting to note in comparison that the entire city of Utica contained in 1890 a population of only 44,007. One block in the district (bounded by 48th and 49th Streets, 10th and 11th Avenues) contained last year a population

of 3,379, and was surpassed in density of population by only one other block in the city, namely, that bounded by East Houston, Stanton, Sheriff and Willett Streets. This latter block was shown by the Tenement House Committee of 1894 to have a denser population per acre than is recorded of any other area of equal size in the world. Through a large portion of the Fifteenth District the population is over 500 to the acre; whereas the average for all New York, south of the Harlem River is 129.2. Not only is the Fifteenth Assembly District exceedingly densely populated, but it is also very poor, the records of the Association showing that it furnishes an unusually large proportion of applicants for relief. 89 per cent. of its population are Americans, Irish and Germans. Of the 92 corner lots in the district, 44 are occupied by saloons; 66 more saloons are scattered between the corners. In 11 blocks that were canvassed more thoroughly than the rest, it was found that there were 8,785 persons without remunerative employment, out of a population of 13,673; or an average of 798 to each block. How many of these were doing nothing at all is not stated, but among so many the number must be large. With an average of $5\frac{1}{2}$ saloons to each block, the influ-

ences surrounding these unemployed are manifestly not the best. Between 9th and 10th Avenues, on 46th Street, where Hartley House stands, there are eight saloons. Nowhere else in the city are there so many to one street block. According to the Federation's report the liquor interests in the district occupy one foot in every 8.8 of the total street frontage, while the church, club and educational interests combined occupy only one foot in every sixty. In addition to the saloons, there are in the 23 blocks 21 Raines Hotels. Among these same demoralizing and pauperizing surroundings there were in the district last year 14,494 persons below the age of twenty-one; of these only 4,217 were attending public school. While there are twelve church congregations in the district, they are all east of 10th Avenue. In the 34 blocks west of 10th Avenue, between 42d and 59th streets, with the exception of a small school of the Children's Aid Society, and a Baptist mission, there is no religious, charitable or altruistic institution. There is no park in the Fifteenth District or near it; no playground for the 14,000 boys and girls other than the streets, and little opportunity anywhere for wholesome, salutary amusement. In three adjacent blocks in the district

the canvassers of the Federation were able to discover only three bath-tubs, or one to every 440.3 families. It is not necessary to go further into statistics to show that the locality is well adapted for the work Hartley House has taken in hand.

As regards the social life of its people it amounts to scarcely anything. The young men have a number of "Social Clubs" as they call them, where card playing and cigarette smoking relieve the monotony of life; for the girls there has been no opportunity whatever for social amusement, except on special occasions, such as those of masquerade balls, or occasional picnics in warm weather at Lion or Sulzer's Park up in Harlem. The masquerade balls held frequently throughout the winter afford considerable amusement for those old enough to partake in them. Tickets admitting "Gent and Lady" are sold from 25 to 50 cents; hat checks 25 cents extra. Funerals of prominent local politicians are sometimes looked forward to as though they were great social functions. A resident of the district told me that when Mr. X died there three years ago the funeral was perfectly grand. When his son died the next year, the local expectations of another similar ceremony ran so high that every man,

woman and child who could leave his or her work, did so and crowded around to see the obsequies. To the great disgust of the spectators "there wasn't nothin' but an ordinary funeral", and the prestige of the X family has greatly suffered as a result. A local pastor who dropped in at Hartley House soon after it was opened said: "Oh! he knew the house well; yes it was a very nice house; he knew everybody who had lived in it for the past sixteen years; yes, he had buried them all: and now it gave him great pleasure to welcome the new occupants, and he would be very glad indeed if he could be of any service to them"! Around election time, the business of the local caterers flourishes. The rival candidates endeavor to make themselves popular by giving large picnics and spreads, hoping thereby to build up large constituencies. The Hon. X. Y., ex-Assemblyman, told me with great pride that his last picnic had cost him twelve hundred dollars. Of course, the Hon. X. Y. would never dream of offering anyone a bribe to vote for him! so he gives a twelve hundred dollar picnic instead.

Reference to a few personal experiences in the District and its immediate neighborhood, will serve to illustrate still further the great opportunities

there offered for civilizing, humanizing work. While in at a small notary's on 10th Avenue one morning, a poor woman entered, in the deepest mourning compatible with her position. She was accompanied by an undertaker. Her small child had fallen off a dock the previous day and been drowned. As she had very little ready money, she could find no undertaker willing to care for the body. Finally she was obliged to make over to the undertaker who accompanied her the insurance policy that she had carried on her child's life. When the transfer was formally effected and the document delivered into his hands, he agreed to take the body, but till then would do nothing. In the bottom of an airshaft in a neighboring house, the writer one night found the dead body of a woman, who had jumped from a fifth story window to escape from a brutal husband. On another occasion, while on duty at a hospital near by, a poor and tattered woman entered with an ugly gash in her forehead, and bearing in her arms a badly bruised infant. Both were the victims of a jealous woman's hate. The unfortunate one, to protect her child, had hidden with it for a long time in a closet, while unknown to her her enemy waited just outside armed with a

heavy door-knob. Finally the mother and child emerged, only to be furiously attacked by the jealous rival and severely bruised and wounded. A third woman from the same neighborhood was brought to the hospital one evening with her head severely injured by a flat-iron that had been flung at her in the process of a domestic row. A fourth had been beaten with an iron poker till nearly killed. Such illustrations might be multiplied, but I do not wish to harrow the reader with further records of brutality.

Another factor that influenced the Association in establishing Hartley House in the Fifteenth District, was the great success that had attended the opening of the Neighborhood Club for boys and girls, in West 45th Street, last November; a success that showed that the people were only too ready to welcome such institutions. The Neighborhood Club opened its doors one afternoon at about 3 o'clock, and before 6 o'clock that evening 169 children had applied for admission as members. The membership soon numbered over 200, all of whom pay regular weekly or monthly dues in return for the privileges enjoyed. The former history of the Neighborhood Club's rooms throws additional inter-

esting light on the social life of the people in that part of the city. For some years the premises had been occupied by a saloon, of somewhat shady reputation. The rear room was used for pool and dancing. Affairs went along fairly smoothly there until one night last year when the dancing festivities became so uproarious that the police stepped in and interfered. The result of the interruption was so sanguinary that during the remainder of the saloon's existence it was known as the "Tub of Blood". "The Tub of Blood" has now been replaced by a flourishing children's club with kindergarten, library and Penny Provident Fund, and all the other usual features.

I think I have said enough to show that the Fifteenth Assembly District is in need of social reform. But there was one other entirely different consideration that moved the Board in its decision to locate the Hartley House there. This was the belief that the poor are not the only ones to be considered in the carrying on of such a work. No work for social reform can be lasting in its benefits unless it tend to spread and develop friendship and kindly feeling between the various social classes. So long as the rich as a class hold aloof from the poor, and perform

all their charitable work by proxy, the classes of the city can never come into kindly and sympathetic relations one with another, and the gulfs that we hear so much of from our socialistic friends, as separating the social classes, will never be obliterated. If the classes could become the friends of each other, the "gulfs" would not exist. One object of Hartley House, then, is to bring the well-to-do and the poor, especially their younger people, into kindly, sympathetic, helpful relations, one with another; and to do all that it can toward overcoming social prejudices by the spread of kindly Christian friendliness. If possible, we wanted to have Hartley House so situated that it would be easily accessible to the people of the better portions of the city; so that they could be induced to come over often and see it, and to take a kindly interest in it, and perhaps take a hand in the management of its clubs and classes, and become the friends of its people. For we believe a great deal of good would result if the people who have time for culture and refinement could be brought more generally into friendly, sympathetic relations with the children of the poor, those whose only other companions are the associates of their tenement homes. When little children are obliged

to live crowded together in the tiny rooms of a tenement, with no cheerful companions, no happy mother, bad food, poverty and perhaps a drunken father; with nothing to do from morning till night but play about on the dirty floors or in the street; with no refining influences brought about them; little help or sympathy when in trouble; hearing few kind words and an abundance of coarse and profane ones; and coming in frequent contact with those whose lives are hardened by exposure to vice and crime, it is no wonder that thousands of them grow up to lives of wretchedness or wrong-doing, and fill the ranks of the discontented and the criminals; and become, perhaps, the enemies of law and order. Just as year by year the evil influences of the tenement districts are sending thousands of children toward the prisons or to fill the ranks of the shiftless or the tramps, so every year there are thousands of opportunities lost of helping these same children to grow up good and useful citizens. The change could all be effected in a great proportion of the cases by surrounding them with a better, more wholesome environment and by kind and helpful friends. For just as the pure and bracing atmosphere of the country yields health and vigor to the

physical frame, so the refined and gentle atmosphere of friendly Christian surroundings strengthens character, and ennobles and uplifts it. If any proof be needed as to the truth of this assertion, I will refer the doubter to the records of such institutions as the Berkshire Industrial Farm in this State, which has shown by convincing evidence that the power of a wholesome environment to develop character from even the worst materials is nothing short of marvelous. The boys who are sent to the Berkshire Farm have often the worst possible records and the worst possible heredities. They are sent there as a last resort by police officials and others who have found them utterly unmanageable anywhere else. Some of them have served term after term in jail, and are just as bad as ever. A boy sent there last year had this endorsement on his commitment papers signed by his father: "This boy has committed every crime save murder". Another had been sentenced in Georgia to twelve years in the chain gang, but fortunately his sentence was commuted and he was sent to the Berkshire Farm instead. A third was sent there by the chief of the Peekskill Police as being utterly uncontrollable. Another, who was sent up less than two weeks ago,

had just drawn a loaded revolver on his father, and threatened to knife his brother, and had for a long time been the constant terror of his family. After three or four years of life at the farm, the boys are got situations, and a correspondence is carried on with their employers to see how they turn out. Of course, in a good many cases the sending of reports is neglected, and so all record of the boy is lost; but still in 80 per cent of all the cases entirely satisfactory reports are received; reports which give every reason to believe that the boys referred to have become self-respecting, honest citizens. At the Berkshire Farm there are no jailers, or guards, or prison walls; the boys are simply left on their honor to stay within bounds, or on honor supplemented by fair and honest discipline. The dormitory doors are open night and day, and anyone can run away who wants to. *But the boys don't run away.* They find better friends up there than they ever knew before, and rarely an unkind word or an unjust rebuke. They think it a pretty nice sort of prison, and they stay there till their whole natures have been changed. The workers at the farm become their friends, and walk with them, and talk with them, and teach them useful trades. And then

care is taken to have for employees the nicest people that can be got, and among them women before whom the worst boy would be simply unable to swear or to be careless of his words or manners. The whole atmosphere is one of kindness and help, tempered by discipline, and the boys' whole natures are subdued. Instead of the large majority of them becoming burdens on the community, there are at least 80 per cent whom we know to become good and useful citizens. There is a testimony to the reforming powers of Christian friendship, to the ennobling influence of friendly associations with kind and gentle women and kind-hearted, honest men. The testimony of many institutions and settlements would be similar. The good that results from kind and friendly associations is often wonderful and far-reaching. Just as a magnet can pass among hundreds of bits of iron, and impart to each the qualities it itself possessed, so intelligent and cheerful Christian people, by associating with children, and particularly the children of the poor, can help them to lead good and happy and useful lives. If poor children's lives can be made happy and bright, they in turn will bring some sunshine into their tenement homes. Bring sunshine and

happiness into a home, and dirt and roughness and evil cannot exist there. By making friends with the children, we become the friends of the poor; and thus help to increase social good-feeling, and to spread peace and good will.

There, then, was our reason for wishing to establish Hartley House in an easily accessible location. We wished to make it easy for the well-to-do and the poor to get together in friendly, helpful relations. And now as to specific description of the work it has taken in hand.

There are two buildings at Hartley House, a front and a rear; the former being the settlement proper, the latter the industrial building. Access to the industrial rooms can be had without passing through the front building, owing to the fortunate existence of a tunnel-way occupying what would otherwise be one side of the basement of the front house. The resident staff at Hartley House consists of three young women: a Resident Head, an Instructress in Home-keeping, and a Trained Nurse. There are two other non resident but salaried workers, one to attend to office work, labor bureau, relief cases, etc., the other to manage the industrial rooms. The work carried on in the settlement proper is as follows:

In the first place, friendly relations are established with the people of the neighborhood by mutual calls, and mother's teas, and little entertainments; and girls' clubs and classes. In the second place, every effort is made to instil into the people, particularly the younger ones, an interest in neatness and tidiness. To this end, care has been taken to have Hartley House just as neatly and tastily arranged as is compatible with simplicity and economy. It has been one of the aims of the management to have Hartley House so furnished that it itself would serve as an impressive object lesson, in showing young women and girls how attractive a home can be made with the expenditure of very little money. Clean floors, a simple rug, neat but plain furniture, simple curtains, and a few good pictures have been so arranged as to make the rooms cozy and attractive, and at the same time give some appearance of taste and refinement. For just as shabby surroundings make shabby manners, and they in turn shabby habits and shabby lives, so we believe that neatness and tidiness and some indication of refinement, are always beneficial. Children who are constantly troublesome in bare-walled missions or bare-walled children's clubs, are often entirely well-behaved

when in the more pleasant and friendly atmosphere of an attractively furnished room. In the third place, every effort is made at the settlement to help the girls and young women who frequent it to become better, more upright, straightforward, reasonable people. The work for the present is confined entirely to girls and women, except at certain hours or on special occasions, when small boys come in to join in an evening's games or an evening's entertainment. But classes and little clubs for the boys will be started as soon as suitable volunteers are found to superintend or teach or manage them. Seven cooking classes have been started, with an average attendance of about ten. Large classes are impossible owing to the limited space in the kitchen. The instruction in cooking is most thoroughly practical and common-sense, only the simplest utensils being used, and only the simplest and most nutritious foods prepared. In conjunction with this work studies are being carried on with reference to the "food budgets" of the poor, under the direction of Prof. W. O. Atwater of the United States Department of Agriculture, a sufficient sum of money having been appropriated to the Association for this work by that Department. The lessons in

cooking are accompanied with practical talks in very simple language, on the chemistry of the food stuffs and their physiological utilities, and the whole is presented in such a pleasant, attractive way that the children enjoy it thoroughly. On the same floor with the Cooking School is the Demonstration Bedroom, where the children are given further instruction as to the proper care of a home. On the parlor floor we have a small library of about two hundred volumes and any number of magazines and periodicals. Every evening the reading room is open, for the members of the various clubs, and those who wish may take the books home for the ordinary period of two weeks. A branch of the Penny Provident Fund has also been established and is developing splendidly, the number of depositors having risen to about fifty per week. Six sewing classes have been started under the direction of as many volunteer workers, and three working girls' clubs. Once a week there is a Mother's Tea in the afternoon, to which the poor women of the neighborhood are invited to come bringing their babies. At these teas, a series of short fifteen minute health talks is given by a prominent New York physician, who endeavors to enlighten the women

in a pleasant way regarding many practical matters in hygiene and the care of children. In the mornings from 8.30 till 12 o'clock, a branch of the Cooper Union Free Labor Bureau is open in the basement, and also a general information and reference bureau from which applicants for special relief are referred to the proper charities. Any urgent case is at once referred by telephone to the Central office of the Association and immediately investigated from there by an experienced visitor. This basement room also serves as a general office for the entire establishment.

In the rear building is carried on another very important part of the Association's work, namely, that of the Industrial Rooms, where the system of Relief by Work is put into practical operation. This rear building was formerly a clothing factory where uniforms were made for the State troops during the war, and consequently it is admirably adapted for its present use. The ticket system on which this branch of the work is founded, is one which we hope and believe can be so developed in time, as to largely diminish one of the greatest evils with which charitable organizations have to contend; namely, the evil of indiscriminate almsgiving at house

doors and in the streets, without investigation; a form of charity that creates much of the pauperism it endeavors to relieve, and produces and sustains a host of vagrants and chronic imposters, people who will never work while begging remains a profitable profession. In this rear building there have been opened large sewing rooms for unskilled women, to which anyone may send women who apply to them for relief. They are given there ample food and clothing *in exchange for an equivalent in work*, while their cases are reported to the Central Office of the Association, promptly investigated in a kind and friendly way, and if necessary relieved more substantially. Books of tickets have been prepared similar to those used by the Charity Organization Society in connection with their relief work for men at the "Wayfarers Lodge", and these are being sold as widely as possible throughout the city to householders and others desiring them. Each ticket entitles the holder to a day's work at Hartley House, a good hot lunch, and about fifty cents worth of groceries and supplies, the exact amount varying according to the thoroughness of the individual's work. These tickets being given to applicants for relief, instead of money, ensure

assistance going only to those who prove their worthiness by willingness to work ; for to all others they are entirely valueless. Those who will work will get the hot lunch and the groceries, and their needs will be promptly looked into ; those who are unwilling to work and who fail to report at Hartley House, get nothing. No woman is received more than twice in any one week ; the object of this regulation being to prevent the women looking upon the Hartley House work as their regular and sufficient employment. The object of the Hartley House Industrial Rooms is to tide the worthy poor through the hard times consequent upon temporary inability to find remunerative work elsewhere. It is not a hospital for "chronics", or a public almshouse. It is therefore essential that the employment it gives should be rather less than entirely satisfying, in order that those who receive it may realize the importance to themselves of finding a better job as quickly as they can. The employment given consists of cleaning and scrubbing, the remaking of old clothes, and the making of rag-carpeting and patchwork quilts. The products of their work are given to such women as wish it in place of an equivalent amount of groceries or other

supplies. As a rule the women are very much pleased with their reception and treatment. The hot lunch that is provided pleases them particularly, though the materials for it cost only six to seven cents a head. On the whole they are treated kindly and well, and perhaps derive some benefit from their quiet and orderly surroundings. The citizen who gives a ticket is promptly notified by the Association as soon as the bearer has done her work, and another report follows in a day or so telling the result of the personal investigation of the case. In this way the public become gradually impressed with the large amount of fraud that there is among professional beggars, for a large proportion of the tickets given out are never redeemed ; and the investigations show that even of those that are redeemed by the day's work, the bearers have in many cases told tales of distress that are utter fabrications. A careful record of each case is kept on file for future reference, and as a knowledge of the real needs and real frauds of a community is essential to the intelligent distribution of relief, these records will be of considerable value. Although the Hartley House tickets entitle their bearers to fifty cents worth of groceries, etc.,

plus the hot lunch, they are sold at the rate of twenty-five cents apiece, the object being to encourage the public to use them as widely as possible. So large a proportion of them fall into unworthy hands, and are never presented, that this low price entails no loss to the Association. The management have been very careful to emphasize the fact that even though in half the cases the tickets are given to unworthy persons, nevertheless *all the money paid for them goes to the relief of the worthy poor*, for it is all spent in the purchase of food that is distributed at the Industrial Rooms *in exchange for an equivalent of work*. No money is given at Hartley House under any circumstances. If the public can be induced to use our tickets widely and generally, we believe that house-to-house begging will rapidly diminish, for it no longer will be a profitable profession. The unworthy poor will be discouraged in and from their importunities, or will migrate to other fields; while the worthy ones will receive the harmless charity of an opportunity to work for a few hours twice a week in exchange for the bare necessities of life.

Another feature at Hartley House are the five cent baths, hot and cold, open to women and chil-

dren every afternoon. As yet they have received little patronage, but when the weather becomes warmer we expect they will be in much demand; for where similar five cent baths have been established in other districts, they have been wonderfully appreciated. Last year during June, July and August, the People's Baths, on Centre Market Place, received over 40,000 visits.

The last feature to be mentioned is the Kindergarten, which will be opened in the Industrial Building next week. It will be started on a small scale with twenty-five children, but it probably will develop very satisfactory, for the district abounds in little children, out of school, to whom such opportunities would be a blessing.

Such then is the scope and work of Hartley House, a scope and work capable, respectively, of almost unlimited expansion and usefulness.

March 24th, 1897.

SUPPLEMENTAL

Early in May, the Neighborhood Clubs Association that had been maintaining the very successful children's club in West 45th Street throughout the winter, became affiliated with Hartley House; the members of that association offering their assistance as volunteers to help in the development and conduct of the Hartley House clubs and classes. Hereafter, Hartley House will be the field in which both organizations will work. By the consolidation it is hoped that the efforts and energy of both can be so concentrated as to ensure the development of one admirable and really efficient establishment, in the place of two separate and rival ones. Hartley House gains the interest and help of about twenty workers; and the Neighborhood Club acquires far

better facilities than it had before for the development and co-ordination of its work.

With the recent acquisition of an additional building adjoining Hartley House, the Kindergarten work is to be much more extensively developed, it being intended to devote two whole floors of the new building to training of this sort. The top floor will be furnished for the accommodation of volunteer residents for short periods, it being hoped and anticipated that many young women will avail themselves of the opportunities thus provided for doing settlement work among the poor, and coming into close and friendly relations with them. A similar plan has been in operation for some years at the College and University settlements in the lower part of the city, and has proved highly successful as a means of interesting young men and women in the welfare of the people, and enlisting their co-operation in the work for social reform.

May 19th, 1897.

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